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Trends in police-reported drug offences in Canada

by Mia Dauvergne

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Symbols

. not available for any reference period
.. not available for a specific reference period
... not applicable
0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p} preliminary
^{r} revised
x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E} use with caution
F too unreliable to be published

Trends in police-reported drug offences in Canada: Highlights

- There were just over 100,000 police-reported drug offences in Canada in 2007. The 2007 rate of drug offences was at its highest point in 30 years.
- The rate of police-reported drug offences has been generally increasing since 1993. The increase in the drug offence rate coincides with a decrease in the overall crime rate which began around the same time.
- Since the 1970s, cannabis offences, primarily possession, have comprised the majority of all drug offences. Although the rate of cannabis offences has generally declined in recent years, these types of offences continued to account for 6 in 10 drug-related crimes in 2007.
- There have been substantial increases in the rates of cocaine offences and "other" type drug offences (such as crystal meth and ecstasy) over the past decade, up by 80% and 168% respectively. The rate of heroin offences, on the other hand, has dropped, down by 41%.
- For 30 years, drug offence rates in British Columbia have consistently been among the highest in Canada. In 2007, the rate in British Columbia was double the rate in Saskatchewan, the next highest province.
- In recent years, the highest rates of drug offences among census metropolitan areas have been reported in Vancouver, Trois-Rivières, Victoria, Abbotsford and Gatineau. The rates in Vancouver and Victoria have been among the highest for more than fifteen years.
- Part of the increase in drug crime can be attributed to an increase in the rate of youth (12 to 17 years) accused which has doubled over the past decade. In recent years, most youth have been cleared by means other than the laying of a formal charge, such as police discretion or by referral to a diversion program.
- About half of all cases involving drug offences in 2006/2007 were stayed, withdrawn, dismissed or discharged by courts, higher than the proportion of court cases in general. Cases may be terminated early for a variety of reasons, including resolution discussions, lack of evidence or a referral to court-sponsored diversion programs.
- In 2006/2007, half of all adults convicted of drug trafficking were sentenced to custody compared to 16% of those convicted of possession. The most common sentence for adults convicted of possession was a fine. Among youth, probation was the most common sentence, regardless of whether the conviction involved drug possession or trafficking.

Trends in police-reported drug offences in Canada

By: Mia Dauvergne

The association between illicit drugs and crime in general has been well established by criminological researchers in Canada and elsewhere in the world. Research has shown that not only are many crimes committed by those who are under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, but crime, particularly property-related crime, is often committed to obtain money to purchase drugs (Pernanen et al., 2002). Moreover, drug offences have been linked to organized crime operations, street gang activity (CISC, 2008) and prostitution (Duchesne, 1997).

The justice-related costs associated with illicit drug use, including expenses for police, courts and correctional services, have been estimated by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse at about $2 billion annually (Rehm et al., 2006). This figure climbs even higher when other social and health-related costs, such as medical expenses, loss of productivity and work absenteeism, are taken into account.

Efforts to address crime associated with illegal drugs in Canada have led to the creation of the National Anti-Drug Strategy, launched in 2007. This strategy involves a collaborative approach among multiple government departments and community stakeholder groups and includes three action plans: prevention, treatment and law enforcement. As part of the enforcement plan, mandatory minimum sentencing legislation for certain serious drug offences has been introduced.[1]

Using data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, this *Juristat* article examines the incidence and nature of police-reported drug offences in Canada.[2] It explores the long-term trends in possession, trafficking, production, importing and exporting of cannabis, cocaine, heroin and a catch-all category of "other" drugs, including methamphetamine (crystal meth) and ecstasy. It also presents information from the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) and the Youth Court Survey (YCCS) on the decisions and sentencing outcomes for those charged with drug offences.

The data presented here reflect only those incidents that are substantiated through police investigation. Given that not all crimes come to the attention of police, these data likely represent an under-count of all drug offences that actually occur in Canada. The full extent of drug crime, however, is unknown.

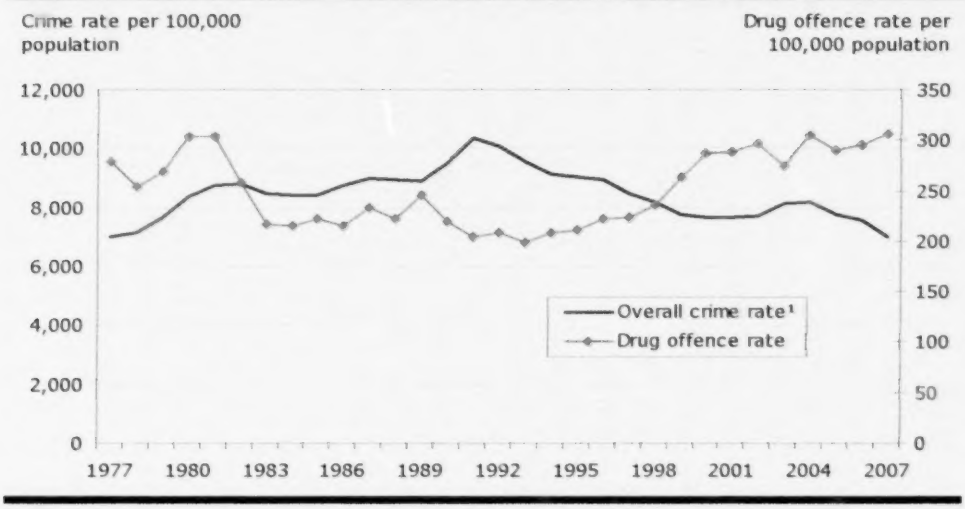
1. For further information on the National Anti-Drug Strategy, see www.nationalantidrugstrategy.gc.ca.
2. This report was partially funded by Public Safety Canada.

Drug offences reach 30-year high in 2007

The overall rate of police-reported drug offences in Canada has generally been increasing since 1993. In 2007, the rate reached 305 incidents per 100,000 population, the highest point in 30 years (Table 1 and Table 2). This rising drug offence rate coincides with a decreasing overall crime rate which began around the same time (Chart 1).

The opposite trend in drug offence rates and crime rates may be related to police policies, charging practices and available resources. For example, targeted initiatives to "crack-down" on drugs may result in more incidents being identified by police, rather than more incidents actually occurring. Likewise, police may focus law enforcement efforts more on addressing drug-related crimes when time, resources and priorities permit; in other words, when other types of crime decline.

Chart 1
Police-reported crime and drug offence rates, Canada, 1977 to 2007



1. Excludes traffic offences, drug offences and other federal statute offences.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

It is also possible that legislative changes may affect the drug offence rate by criminalizing certain behaviours that were not previously considered to be a crime. For instance, in May 1997, the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) was enacted, replacing the former *Narcotics Control Act* and parts of the *Food and Drugs Act*. This new Act broadened the scope of substances considered to be illegal and introduced the offence of production of a controlled substance (Quann, 2003).

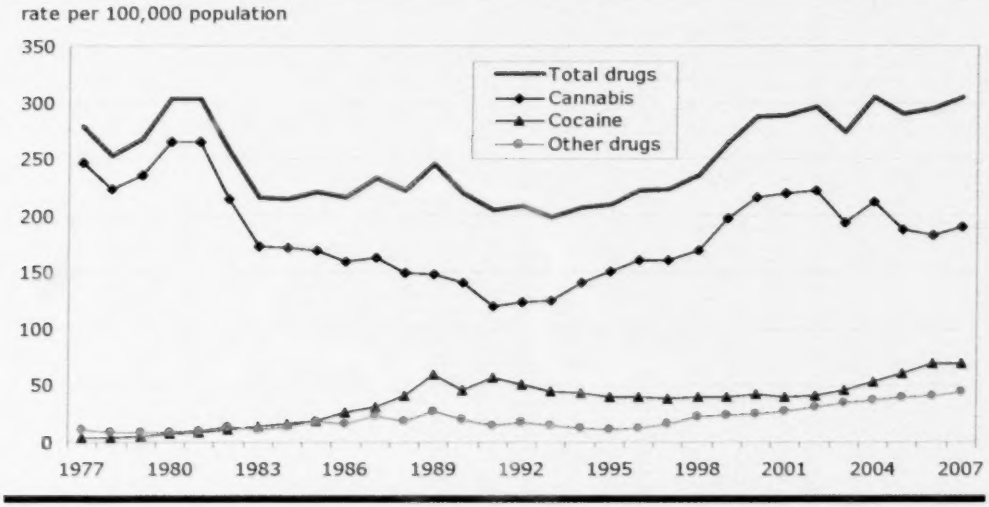
Similarly, legal debates may also impact the drug offence rate. For example, following almost a decade of steady increases, the rate of drug offences in Canada dropped 7% in 2003, due primarily to changes in possession of cannabis offences. It was around that same time that legislation to decriminalize small amounts of cannabis was introduced in Parliament and the constitutionality of cannabis possession laws was challenged by several court rulings. While this legislation was not ultimately passed, decreases in police-reported incidents that year may have been related to the uncertainty surrounding the legality of this offence, although this cannot be definitively determined.

An increase in the use of illicit drugs may also lead to a greater number of drug-related charges being laid by police. A recent national survey found that between 1994 and 2004, the proportion of Canadians who reported having used an illicit drug in their lifetime rose from 28% to 45%. Cannabis was found to be the most widely used type of drug, followed by hallucinogens, cocaine (or crack), speed and heroin (Adlaf, Begin and Sawka, 2005).

Cannabis offences decline in recent years but remain most common type of drug offence

Over the past 30 years, the rate of police-reported drug crime in Canada has been consistently driven by cannabis offences (Chart 2), most notably possession. Although the rate of cannabis offences has generally been declining since 2002, these types of offences continue to account for the majority of drug crimes. Among the over 100,000 drug-related incidents identified by police in 2007, 62% involved cannabis. Of these, three-quarters were for possession.

Chart 2
Police-reported drug offence rates, by type of drug, Canada, 1977 to 2007



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

While the rates of possession and trafficking of cannabis are lower in recent years than during the 1970s, production of cannabis has risen substantially (Table 3). The 2007 rate was eight times higher than 30 years ago, although it has remained relatively stable over the past decade. Some of this increase may be attributed to the existence of "marijuana grow-ops", indoor or outdoor facilities where marijuana plants are illegally cultivated. Not only have these types of operations been associated with violent crime, but they can also generate safety hazards, health problems and economic losses for members of the community (RCMP, n.d.).

Using data from a sub-set of police services covering 94% of the population, it is possible to explore the location in which drug offences occur. In 2007, 6 in 10 offences involving the production of cannabis occurred in a residence, 32% were in an open field and 3% in a commercial establishment. In 2006, most cannabis production seizures by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in western Canada, particularly in British Columbia, were from indoor facilities, whereas those in eastern Canada were mainly from outdoor facilities (RCMP, 2007).

The second largest category of drug crimes involves cocaine offences. In 2007, cocaine offences comprised nearly one-quarter of all drug offences known to police, about half of which involved possession and half, trafficking. In contrast to the trend in cannabis offences, the rate of cocaine offences has been increasing in recent years, primarily as a result of increases in possession (Table 4). The rate of cocaine offences was 80% higher than a decade ago, although still well below that for cannabis.

Compared to other types of drug offences, those involving heroin are relatively low. According to the RCMP, heroin is one of the least-used illicit drugs in Canada (RCMP, 2007). In 2007, fewer than 1% of drug-related offences involved heroin, a proportion that has remained fairly constant over the years. Most heroin offences are concentrated in large urban areas, particularly Vancouver.

Police-reported data on offences involving all other types of illicit drugs, such as methamphetamine (crystal meth), ecstasy, "date rape" drugs, LSD and barbiturates are grouped together into one inclusive category.[3] Offences involving chemical precursors, which are substances used for the production of many illegal street drugs, are also included in this category. Examples of chemical precursors include ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, substances that are commonly used in cold medications, but which are also used to produce methamphetamine.

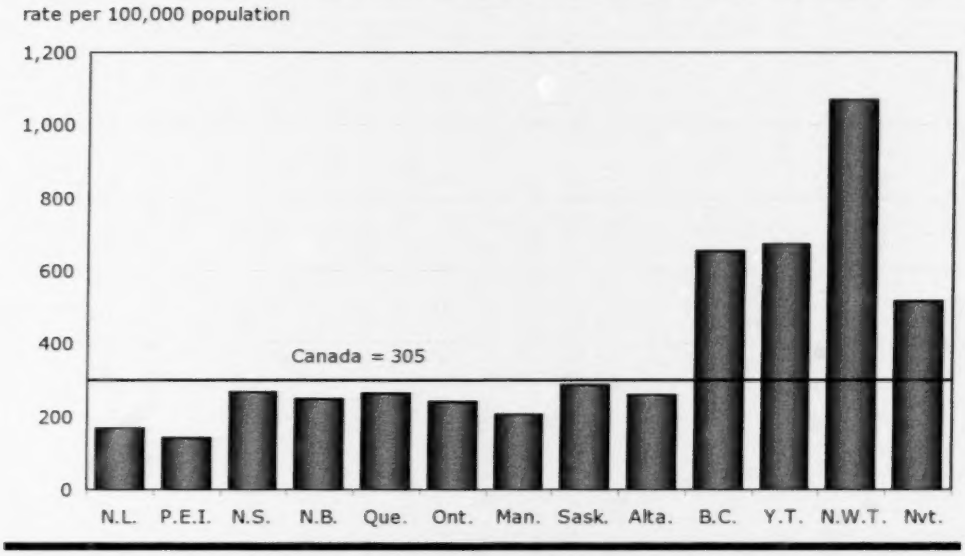
Of all categories of drugs, the "other" drug offence rate has risen the most in the past 10 years, up 168% (Table 5). Increases have occurred in virtually all provinces and across each of the major offence types. In its 2008 annual report on organized crime, Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC) states that Canada has become one of the primary source countries in the world for ecstasy. "Super labs", used for the mass production of certain synthetic drugs, such as methamphetamine, have been located by police in British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec (CISC, 2008), the same provinces to report the highest rates of illegal production of "other" drugs. Despite increasing over the past 10 years, offences in this category accounted for only 14% of all drug crimes in 2007.

3. Beginning in April 2008, the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey began capturing information on two new types of drugs: methamphetamine (crystal meth) and methylenedioxyamphetamine (ecstasy).

British Columbia reports highest rate of drug offences among the provinces

British Columbia has consistently had a relatively high rate of police-reported drug offences. Regardless of the type of drug or the type of offence, the rates of drug crime in British Columbia have been among the highest in Canada for 30 years. In 2007, the total drug crime rate in this province (654 incidents per 100,000 population) was more than double the rate in Saskatchewan, the next highest province (Table 6, Table 7 and Chart 3). Drug offence rates in Yukon, Nunavut, and particularly the Northwest Territories, also tend to be considerably higher than the national average, as is the case for most crimes.[4]

Chart 3
Police-reported drug offence rates, by province and territory, 2007

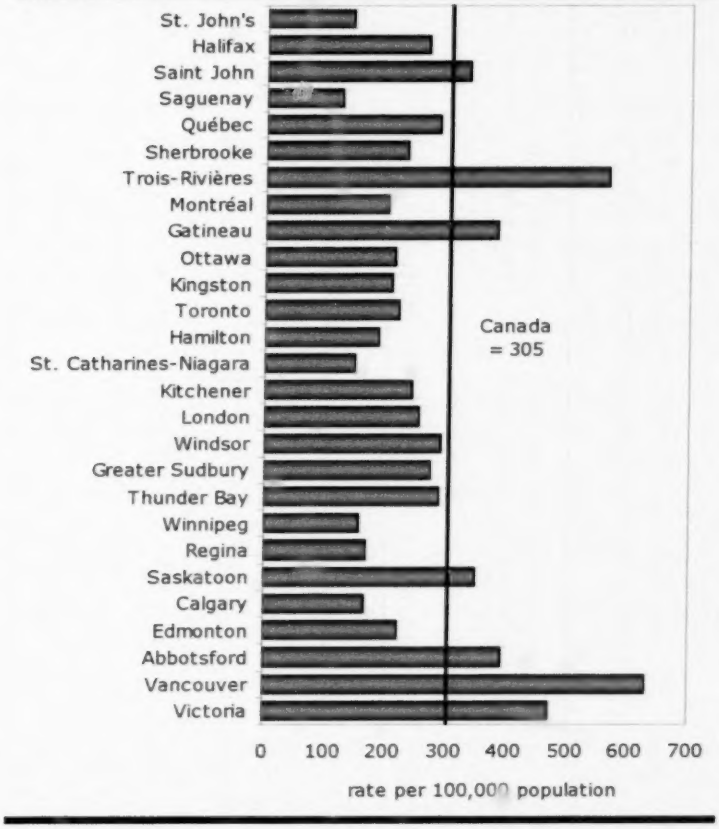


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

In accordance with the province as a whole, relatively high rates of drug offences are found in the census metropolitan areas (CMA) of Vancouver, Victoria and Abbotsford (Table 8, Table 9 and Chart 4). Along with Trois-Rivières and Gatineau, these cities have reported the highest rates in Canada for the past five years. The rates in Vancouver and Victoria have been among the highest in the country since 1991, when CMA statistics first became available.

4. For further information on crimes rates in general, see Dauvergne, M. 2008. "Crime statistics in Canada, 2007". *Juristat.* Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X, Vol. 28, no. 7. Ottawa.

Chart 4
Police-reported drug offence rates, by census metropolitan area, 2007



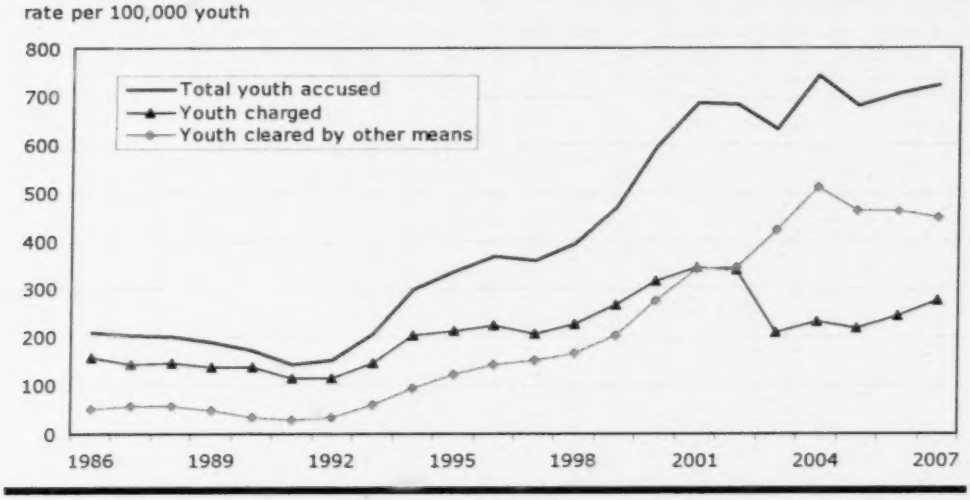
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Youth accused of drug offences less likely than in the past to be formally charged

Part of the overall increase in the rate of drug crime can be attributed to increases in youth (aged 12 to 17 years) accused of drug offences (Chart 5). Despite recent fluctuations, the 2007 rate of youth accused of drug offences was double what it was 10 years ago. This increase corresponds with an increase in drug use among youth. According to a national survey of Canadians, illicit drug use among youth has increased consistently since the late 1980s (Health Canada, 2007). In 2007, youth aged 16 and 17 years were among those with the highest rates of drug-related offences (Chart 6).[5] While the rate of adults charged with drug offences also rose over the past decade, the increase was much less (+32%) than that for youth.

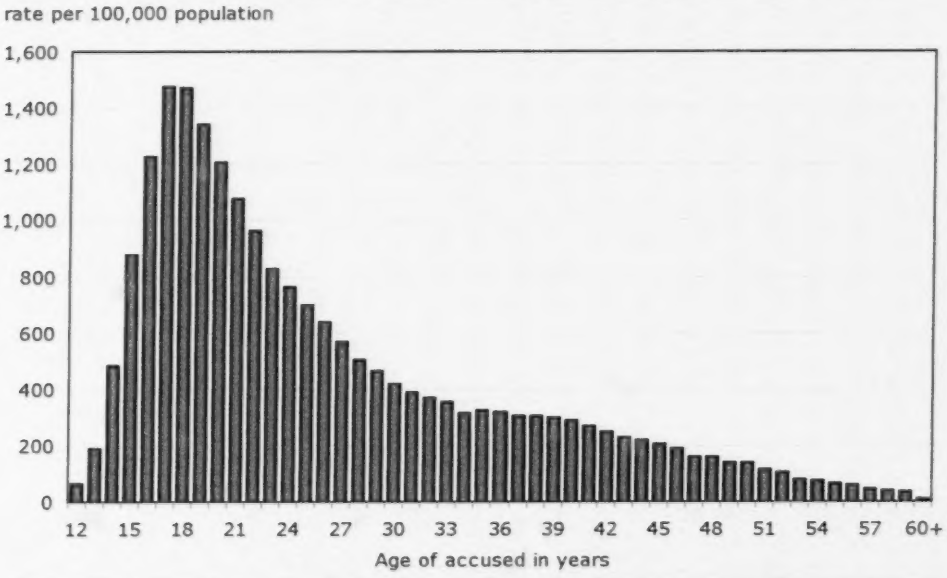
5. The detailed characteristics of persons accused of drug-related offences are based upon data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting survey. In 2007, data on accused persons was reported by police services covering 90% of the population of Canada, slightly lower than the proportion for incidents.

Chart 5
Youth (12 to 17 years) accused of police-reported drug offences, Canada, 1986 to 2007



Note: Comparable youth crime data are available beginning in 1986, following the implementation of uniform jurisdictional age classifications in April 1985.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Chart 6
Persons accused of police-reported drug offences, by age of accused, 2007



Note: Excludes accused persons under the age of 12 years as well as those whose age was reported by police as unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Of the over 90,000 persons accused of a drug offence in 2007, youth accounted for 19%, although this varied by type of drug. Youth comprised 24% of those accused of cannabis offences, compared to 5% of all those accused of cocaine offences.

In recent years, the way in which police deal with youth accused of drug offences has changed. Historically, youth were more likely to be charged by police rather than cleared by other means, such as police discretion or a referral to a diversionary program. However, in 2002, for the first time, the number of youth accused of a drug offence who were cleared by other means surpassed the number of youth charged, and has remained well above ever since (Chart 5). In 2007, 62% of youth accused of a drug-related incident were cleared by means other than the laying of a formal charge compared to 42% a decade ago.

This change in police charging practices coincides with the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (*YCJA*) which came into effect on April 1st, 2003. One of the key objectives of the *YCJA* was to divert youth who commit non-violent crimes away from the court system and to increase the use of extrajudicial measures, such as cautions or community program referrals (Department of Justice Canada, n.d.).

Among all youth accused of a drug-related offence in 2007, those in British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador and the three territories were most likely to be cleared by other means (Table 10). Conversely, youth in Manitoba, and particularly in Winnipeg, were most likely to be charged.

Crimes associated with drug offences usually relatively minor

Information on other types of offences that occur in conjunction with drug offences is available from a sub-set of police service covering 94% of the population. In 2007, about one-quarter of drug-related incidents also involved at least one non-drug violation.[6] This compares to 11% of *Criminal Code* incidents in general.

The offences most often associated with drug-related incidents tend to be relatively minor in nature. Administration of justice offences (such as failure to comply with an order or breach of probation) occurred in about one-third of all drug-related incidents as did property offences, usually possession of stolen goods. A weapon offence was involved in 14% of drug-related incidents and 11% were associated with a violent offence.[7]

6. This analysis excludes drug-related incidents that may have occurred in conjunction with traffic offences as this information is not available from the UCR survey.
7. Percentages do not add up to 100% as categories are not mutually exclusive. The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey captures up to four violations for each incident.

Half of all drug-related court cases are stayed, withdrawn, dismissed or discharged

Drug-related cases represent approximately 7% of both adult and youth criminal court caseloads.[8] In 2006/2007, there were nearly 25,000 adult court cases and about 3,700 youth court cases in which a drug-related charge was the most serious offence.

Court cases in which the drug-related charge was the most serious offence were more likely than cases in general to be stayed, withdrawn, dismissed or discharged. Cases may be stayed, withdrawn, dismissed or discharged for a variety of reasons including court-sponsored diversion programs, lack of evidence or as a result of resolution discussions between the prosecution and the accused.[9] In 2006/2007, about half of all drug-related court cases (43% for adults and 51% for youth) ended due to one of these four reasons. This compares to 30% of all adult court cases and 38% of all youth court cases.

About half of adult cases (55%) and youth cases (48%) involving drug-related charges in 2006/2007 resulted in a finding of guilt. For adults, sentences were more severe for convictions involving drug trafficking than drug possession. Just over half of all adults convicted of trafficking in 2006/2007 were sentenced to custody, with an average sentence length of 278 days. In comparison, 16% of adults convicted of possession were sentenced to custody, with an average sentence of 19 days. Adults convicted of drug possession were more likely to receive a fine (44%) or probation (28%) as the most serious sentence imposed. Among youth, the most common type of sentence was probation, regardless of whether or not the conviction involved possession or trafficking of drugs (45% and 61%, respectively).

Summary

In 2007, the police-reported rate of drug offences in Canada reached its highest point in 30 years. Most drug offences continued to involve cannabis, although the rate of cannabis offences has generally declined in recent years. In contrast, the rates of cocaine and "other" type drugs, such as crystal meth and ecstasy, have risen.

Part of the increase in the overall rate of drug crime can be attributed to an increase in the rate of youth accused of drug offences, which doubled over the past decade. In recent years, most youth accused of a drug offence have been cleared by means other than formal charging by police, such as police discretion or referral to a diversion program.
In 2006/2007, about half of all drug-related court cases were stayed, withdrawn, dismissed or discharged. If convicted, youth were most often sentenced to probation. Probation was also the most common sentence for adults convicted of drug possession; however, adults convicted of drug trafficking were more often sentenced to custody.

8. Information is derived from the Adult Criminal Court Survey and the Youth Court Survey and refers to cases in which a drug-related charge was the most serious offence. Excludes data from Quebec municipal courts.
9. The resolution discussion may result in the accused being convicted of a different charge in the same case, even though the drug charge was not convicted.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Police-reported drug offences, by type of drug, Canada, 1977 to 2007

	Total drug offences		Cannabis		Cocaine		Heroin		Other drugs[1]	
Year	number	rate[2]	number	rate[2]	number	rate[2]	number	rate[2]	number	rate[2]
1977	65,938	277.9	58,481	246.5	897	3.8	1,037	4.4	2,716	11.4
1978	60,747	253.5	53,378	222.7	1,030	4.3	1,221	5.1	2,264	9.4
1979	64,923	268.3	56,834	234.8	1,142	4.7	575	2.4	2,064	8.5
1980	74,196	302.6	64,866	264.6	1,704	7.0	623	2.5	2,241	9.1
1981	75,104	302.6	65,763	265.0	2,189	8.8	583	2.3	2,386	9.6
1982	64,636	257.3	53,658	213.6	2,738	10.9	734	2.9	3,354	13.4
1983	54,847	216.2	43,799	172.7	3,275	12.9	942	3.7	2,763	10.9
1984	54,950	214.6	43,917	171.5	4,119	16.1	634	2.5	3,279	12.8
1985	57,205	221.4	43,803	169.5	4,900	19.0	827	3.2	4,579	17.7
1986	56,251	215.5	41,514	159.1	6,729	25.8	914	3.5	4,191	16.1
1987	61,658	233.1	43,072	162.9	8,202	31.0	765	2.9	6,345	24.0
1988	59,430	221.8	40,030	149.4	11,036	41.2	937	3.5	4,991	18.6
1989	66,961	245.4	40,243	147.5	16,158	59.2	954	3.5	7,326	26.9
1990	60,645	219.0	38,810	140.1	12,765	46.1	1,206	4.4	5,541	20.0
1991	57,093	203.7	33,267	118.7	16,114	57.5	1,362	4.9	4,147	14.8
1992	58,881	207.6	34,993	123.4	14,139	49.8	1,449	5.1	4,806	16.9
1993	56,817	198.1	35,995	125.5	12,523	43.7	1,595	5.6	4,284	14.9
1994	60,153	207.4	40,496	139.6	12,339	42.5	1,607	5.5	3,468	12.0
1995	61,613	210.3	43,845	149.6	11,369	38.8	1,236	4.2	3,204	10.9
1996	65,729	222.0	47,234	159.5	11,478	38.8	1,287	4.3	3,661	12.4
1997	66,593	222.7	47,933	160.3	11,468	38.3	1,235	4.1	4,928	16.5
1998	70,921	235.2	50,917	168.8	12,182	40.4	1,323	4.4	6,499	21.6
1999	80,142	263.6	60,011	197.4	11,963	39.3	1,323	4.4	6,845	22.5
2000	88,091	287.0	66,274	216.0	12,829	41.8	1,226	4.0	7,762	25.3
2001	89,395	288.2	67,921	218.9	12,145	39.2	951	3.1	8,378	27.0
2002	92,781	295.7	69,687	222.1	12,737	40.6	786	2.5	9,571	30.5
2003	86,791	274.0	61,087	192.8	14,225	44.9	657	2.1	10,816	34.1
2004	97,630	305.1	67,895	212.2	16,974	53.1	799	2.5	11,956	37.4
2005	93,664	289.9	60,492	187.2	19,270	59.6	831	2.6	13,066	40.4
2006	96,175	294.6	59,521	182.3	22,383	68.6	972	3.0	13,294	40.7
2007	100,675	305.3	62,510	189.6	22,819	69.2	797	2.4	14,547	44.1

1. Other drugs include all other illicit drugs not otherwise stated, e.g. crystal meth, ecstasy, "date rape" drugs, LSD, barbiturates, chemical precursors, etc.
2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates are from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2
Police-reported drug offences, by type of offence, Canada, 1977 to 2007

Year	Total drug offences		Possession		Trafficking		Production, importation and exportation	
	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]
1977	65,938	277.9	54,130	228.1	10,816	45.6	992	4.2
1978	60,747	253.5	48,325	201.7	11,088	46.3	1,334	5.6
1979	64,923	268.3	51,279	211.9	12,522	51.7	1,122	4.6
1980	74,196	302.6	58,459	238.5	14,566	59.4	1,171	4.8
1981	75,104	302.6	58,838	237.1	15,183	61.2	1,083	4.4
1982	64,636	257.3	47,190	187.9	15,912	63.4	1,534	6.1
1983	54,847	216.2	39,230	154.6	13,792	54.4	1,825	7.2
1984	54,950	214.6	41,386	161.6	11,979	46.8	1,585	6.2
1985	57,205	221.4	42,039	162.7	13,639	52.8	1,527	5.9
1986	56,251	215.5	39,596	151.7	14,941	57.2	1,714	6.6
1987	61,658	233.1	41,182	155.7	18,411	69.6	2,065	7.8
1988	59,430	221.8	39,322	146.7	18,118	67.6	1,990	7.4
1989	66,961	245.4	43,053	157.8	21,590	79.1	2,318	8.5
1990	60,645	219.0	38,187	137.9	20,268	73.2	2,190	7.9
1991	57,093	203.7	32,221	114.9	21,818	77.8	3,054	10.9
1992	58,881	207.6	33,786	119.1	20,708	73.0	4,387	15.5
1993	56,817	198.1	34,170	119.1	18,672	65.1	3,975	13.9
1994	60,153	207.4	37,704	130.0	17,874	61.6	4,575	15.8
1995	61,613	210.3	38,560	131.6	17,394	59.4	5,659	19.3
1996	65,729	222.0	41,726	140.9	17,913	60.5	6,090	20.6
1997	66,593	222.7	41,297	138.1	17,299	57.8	7,997	26.7
1998	70,921	235.2	43,514	144.3	17,809	59.1	9,598	31.8
1999	80,142	263.6	48,590	159.8	20,145	66.3	11,407	37.5
2000	88,091	287.0	54,815	178.6	21,616	70.4	11,660	38.0
2001	89,395	288.2	57,852	186.5	20,173	65.0	11,370	36.7
2002	92,781	295.7	60,615	193.2	20,414	65.1	11,752	37.5
2003	86,791	274.0	53,280	168.2	21,233	67.0	12,278	38.8
2004	97,630	305.1	63,155	197.4	22,680	70.9	11,795	36.9
2005	93,664	289.9	60,966	188.7	22,982	71.1	9,716	30.1
2006	96,175	294.6	63,822	195.5	23,203	71.1	9,150	28.0
2007	100,675	305.3	68,029	206.3	23,479	71.2	9,167	27.8

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates are from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3
Police-reported cannabis offences, by type of offence, Canada, 1977 to 2007

	Total cannabis offences		Possession		Trafficking		Production		Importation and exportation	
Year	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]
1977	58,481	246.5	50,168	211.4	7,504	31.6	595	2.5	214	0.9
1978	53,378	222.7	44,604	186.1	7,634	31.9	803	3.4	337	1.4
1979	56,834	234.8	47,439	196.0	8,431	34.8	615	2.5	349	1.4
1980	64,866	264.6	53,999	220.3	9,883	40.3	668	2.7	316	1.3
1981	65,763	265.0	54,277	218.7	10,656	42.9	596	2.4	234	0.9
1982	53,658	213.6	42,030	167.3	10,521	41.9	766	3.0	341	1.4
1983	43,799	172.7	34,364	135.5	8,065	31.8	875	3.4	495	2.0
1984	43,917	171.5	35,587	139.0	7,067	27.6	710	2.8	553	2.2
1985	43,803	169.5	34,665	134.1	7,963	30.8	641	2.5	534	2.1
1986	41,514	159.1	31,766	121.7	8,645	33.1	676	2.6	427	1.6
1987	43,072	162.9	30,856	116.7	10,599	40.1	1,042	3.9	575	2.2
1988	40,030	149.4	29,266	109.2	9,203	34.3	1,115	4.2	446	1.7
1989	40,243	147.5	28,773	105.5	9,738	35.7	1,375	5.0	357	1.3
1990	38,810	140.1	27,344	98.7	9,853	35.6	1,334	4.8	279	1.0
1991	33,267	118.7	21,921	78.2	8,780	31.3	2,002	7.1	564	2.0
1992	34,993	123.4	23,178	81.7	8,074	28.5	2,938	10.4	803	2.8
1993	35,995	125.5	24,279	84.6	8,294	28.9	2,795	9.7	627	2.2
1994	40,496	139.6	28,362	97.8	8,128	28.0	3,434	11.8	572	2.0
1995	43,845	149.6	30,505	104.1	8,206	28.0	4,457	15.2	677	2.3
1996	47,234	159.5	33,238	112.2	8,420	28.4	5,034	17.0	542	1.8
1997	47,933	160.3	32,696	109.3	7,925	26.5	6,615	22.1	697	2.3
1998	50,917	168.8	34,419	114.1	7,940	26.3	7,561	25.1	997	3.3
1999	60,011	197.4	39,594	130.2	10,295	33.9	9,007	29.6	1,115	3.7
2000	66,274	216.0	45,407	148.0	10,708	34.9	9,062	29.5	1,097	3.6
2001	67,921	218.9	47,720	153.8	10,824	34.9	8,403	27.1	974	3.1
2002	69,687	222.1	49,647	158.2	10,911	34.8	8,113	25.9	1,016	3.2
2003	61,087	192.8	41,295	130.4	10,520	33.2	8,601	27.2	671	2.1
2004	67,895	212.2	47,957	149.9	10,629	33.2	8,327	26.0	982	3.1
2005	60,492	187.2	43,208	133.7	9,294	28.8	6,949	21.5	1,041	3.2
2006	59,521	182.3	43,942	134.6	8,079	24.7	6,550	20.1	950	2.9
2007	62,510	189.6	47,101	142.8	7,951	24.1	6,653	20.2	805	2.4

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates are from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4
Police-reported cocaine offences, by type of offence, Canada, 1977 to 2007

Year	Total cocaine offences		Possession		Trafficking		Production, importation and exportation	
	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]
1977	897	3.8	434	1.8	388	1.6	75	0.3
1978	1,030	4.3	383	1.6	543	2.3	104	0.4
1979	1,142	4.7	495	2.0	554	2.3	93	0.4
1980	1,704	7.0	697	2.8	893	3.6	114	0.5
1981	2,189	8.8	1,026	4.1	1,010	4.1	153	0.6
1982	2,738	10.9	1,203	4.8	1,273	5.1	262	1.0
1983	3,275	12.9	1,350	5.3	1,664	6.6	261	1.0
1984	4,119	16.1	2,001	7.8	1,904	7.4	214	0.8
1985	4,900	19.0	2,333	9.0	2,349	9.1	218	0.8
1986	6,729	25.8	3,117	11.9	3,326	12.7	286	1.1
1987	8,202	31.0	3,675	13.9	4,216	15.9	311	1.2
1988	11,036	41.2	4,960	18.5	5,787	21.6	289	1.1
1989	16,158	59.2	6,960	25.5	8,849	32.4	349	1.3
1990	12,765	46.1	5,286	19.1	7,153	25.8	326	1.2
1991	16,114	57.5	6,172	22.0	9,647	34.4	295	1.1
1992	14,139	49.8	6,082	21.4	7,676	27.1	381	1.3
1993	12,523	43.7	5,475	19.1	6,672	23.3	376	1.3
1994	12,339	42.5	5,605	19.3	6,361	21.9	373	1.3
1995	11,369	38.8	4,824	16.5	6,188	21.1	357	1.2
1996	11,478	38.8	4,846	16.4	6,262	21.1	370	1.2
1997	11,468	38.3	4,782	16.0	6,389	21.4	297	1.0
1998	12,182	40.4	4,859	16.1	7,014	23.3	309	1.0
1999	11,963	39.3	4,759	15.7	6,868	22.6	336	1.1
2000	12,829	41.8	4,942	16.1	7,489	24.4	398	1.3
2001	12,145	39.2	5,403	17.4	6,267	20.2	475	1.5
2002	12,737	40.6	5,906	18.8	6,391	20.4	440	1.4
2003	14,225	44.9	6,436	20.3	7,400	23.4	389	1.2
2004	16,974	53.1	8,201	25.6	8,411	26.3	362	1.1
2005	19,270	59.6	9,583	29.7	9,431	29.2	256	0.8
2006	22,383	68.6	11,696	35.8	10,415	31.9	272	0.8
2007	22,819	69.2	11,603	35.2	10,942	33.2	274	0.8

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates are from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5
Police-reported "other" drug offences, by type of offence, Canada, 1977 to 2007

	Total "other" drug offences[1]		Possession		Trafficking		Production, importation and exportation	
Year	number	rate[2]	number	rate[2]	number	rate[2]	number	rate[2]
1977	2,716	11.4	1,789	7.5	872	3.7	55	0.2
1978	2,264	9.4	1,663	6.9	548	2.3	53	0.2
1979	2,064	8.5	1,442	6.0	601	2.5	21	0.1
1980	2,241	9.1	1,566	6.4	648	2.6	27	0.1
1981	2,386	9.6	1,629	6.6	723	2.9	34	0.1
1982	3,354	13.4	2,265	9.0	1,014	4.0	75	0.3
1983	2,763	10.9	1,949	7.7	734	2.9	80	0.3
1984	3,279	12.8	2,544	9.9	687	2.7	48	0.2
1985	4,579	17.7	3,907	15.1	629	2.4	43	0.2
1986	4,191	16.1	3,464	13.3	657	2.5	70	0.3
1987	6,345	24.0	5,361	20.3	943	3.6	41	0.2
1988	4,991	18.6	3,989	14.9	958	3.6	44	0.2
1989	7,326	26.9	6,247	22.9	959	3.5	120	0.4
1990	5,541	20.0	4,477	16.2	948	3.4	116	0.4
1991	4,147	14.8	2,979	10.6	1,122	4.0	46	0.2
1992	4,806	16.9	3,383	11.9	1,357	4.8	66	0.2
1993	4,284	14.9	3,118	10.9	1,119	3.9	47	0.2
1994	3,468	12.0	2,344	8.1	1,046	3.6	78	0.3
1995	3,204	10.9	2,097	7.2	1,055	3.6	52	0.2
1996	3,661	12.4	2,283	7.7	1,317	4.4	61	0.2
1997	4,928	16.5	2,895	9.7	1,713	5.7	320	1.1
1998	6,499	21.6	3,622	12.0	2,203	7.3	674	2.2
1999	6,845	22.5	3,638	12.0	2,289	7.5	918	3.0
2000	7,762	25.3	3,884	12.7	2,815	9.2	1,063	3.5
2001	8,378	27.0	4,235	13.7	2,683	8.6	1,460	4.7
2002	9,571	30.5	4,645	14.8	2,791	8.9	2,135	6.8
2003	10,816	34.1	5,208	16.4	3,060	9.7	2,548	8.0
2004	11,956	37.4	6,530	20.4	3,347	10.5	2,079	6.5
2005	13,066	40.4	7,696	23.8	3,972	12.3	1,398	4.3
2006	13,294	40.7	7,575	23.2	4,389	13.4	1,330	4.1
2007	14,547	44.1	8,857	26.9	4,308	13.1	1,382	4.2

1. Other drugs include all other illicit drugs not otherwise stated, e.g. crystal meth, ecstasy, "date rape" drugs, LSD, barbiturates, chemical precursors, etc.
2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates are from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 6
Police-reported drug offences, by type of drug, by province and territory, 2007

Province and territory	Total drugs		Cannabis		Cocaine		Heroin		Other drugs[1]	
	number	rate[2]	number	rate[2]	number	rate[2]	number	rate[2]	number	rate[2]
Newfoundland and Labrador	857	169.3	624	123.3	142	28.0	1	0.2	90	17.8
Prince Edward Island	197	142.1	114	82.2	45	32.5	2	1.4	36	26.0
Nova Scotia	2,506	268.3	1,803	193.0	352	37.7	0	0.0	351	37.6
New Brunswick	1,874	249.9	1,276	170.2	256	34.1	6	0.8	334	44.5
Quebec	20,357	264.3	14,194	184.3	2,275	29.5	60	0.8	3,828	49.7
Ontario	31,018	242.3	18,653	145.7	7,493	58.5	171	1.3	4,701	36.7
Manitoba	2,466	207.8	1,409	118.7	780	65.7	2	0.2	275	23.2
Saskatchewan	2,851	286.0	1,962	196.8	508	51.0	5	0.5	376	37.7
Alberta	9,092	261.7	4,876	140.4	3,272	94.2	17	0.5	927	26.7
British Columbia	28,632	653.7	17,034	388.9	7,505	171.3	533	12.2	3,560	81.3
Yukon	209	674.4	121	390.5	66	213.0	0	0.0	22	71.0
Northwest Territories	456	1,069.5	304	713.0	115	269.7	0	0.0	37	86.8
Nunavut	160	514.3	140	450.0	10	32.1	0	0.0	10	32.1
Canada	**100,675**	**305.3**	**62,510**	**189.6**	**22,819**	**69.2**	**797**	**2.4**	**14,547**	**44.1**

1. Other drugs include all other illicit drugs not otherwise stated, e.g. crystal meth, ecstasy, "date rape" drugs, LSD, barbiturates, chemical precursors, etc.
2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates are from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 7
Police-reported drug offences, by type of offence, by province and territory, 2007

Province and territory	Total drugs		Possession		Trafficking		Production, importation and exportation	
	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]
Newfoundland and Labrador	857	169.3	509	100.5	320	63.2	28	5.5
Prince Edward Island	197	142.1	94	67.8	97	70.0	6	4.3
Nova Scotia	2,506	268.3	1,593	170.5	701	75.0	212	22.7
New Brunswick	1,874	249.9	1,085	144.7	584	77.9	205	27.3
Quebec	20,357	264.3	12,958	168.3	3,978	51.7	3,421	44.4
Ontario	31,018	242.3	21,399	167.1	7,284	56.9	2,335	18.2
Manitoba	2,466	207.8	1,151	97.0	1,191	100.4	124	10.4
Saskatchewan	2,851	286.0	1,993	199.9	808	81.1	50	5.0
Alberta	9,092	261.7	5,815	167.4	3,139	90.4	138	4.0
British Columbia	28,632	653.7	20,950	478.3	5,039	115.0	2,643	60.3
Yukon	209	674.4	132	426.0	76	245.2	1	3.2
Northwest Territories	456	1,069.5	278	652.0	177	415.1	1	2.3
Nunavut	160	514.3	72	231.4	85	273.2	3	9.6
Canada	**100,675**	**305.3**	**68,029**	**206.3**	**23,479**	**71.2**	**9,167**	**27.8**

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates are from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 8
Police-reported drug offences, by type of drug, by census metropolitan area, 2007

Census metropolitan area[1,2,3]	Total drugs		Cannabis		Cocaine		Heroin		Other drugs[4]	
	number	rate[5]	number	rate[5]	number	rate[5]	number	rate[5]	number	rate[5]
500,000 and over population										
Vancouver	14,407	630.1	8,022	350.8	3,728	163.0	392	17.1	2,265	99.1
Québec	2,090	285.3	1,144	156.2	244	33.3	0	0.0	702	95.8
Edmonton	2,437	222.4	1,240	113.1	874	79.7	8	0.7	315	28.7
Toronto	12,132	220.2	7,139	129.6	3,413	61.9	129	2.3	1,451	26.3
Ottawa[6]	1,915	215.2	1,166	131.0	570	64.0	2	0.2	177	19.9
Montréal	7,563	202.8	4,718	126.5	1,149	30.8	51	1.4	1,645	44.1
Hamilton	1,325	187.3	720	101.8	451	63.8	2	0.3	152	21.5
Calgary	1,891	165.0	835	72.9	996	86.9	4	0.3	56	4.9
Winnipeg	1,151	157.2	503	68.7	506	69.1	1	0.1	141	19.3
100,000 to less than 500,000 population										
Trois-Rivières	829	564.9	637	434.1	79	53.8	2	1.4	111	75.6
Victoria	1,596	471.1	927	273.7	491	144.9	34	10.0	144	42.5
Abbotsford	664	392.7	378	223.6	207	122.4	12	7.1	67	39.6
Gatineau[7]	1,120	382.6	821	280.5	87	29.7	1	0.3	211	72.1
Saskatoon	873	348.8	595	237.7	150	59.9	0	0.0	128	51.1
Saint John	339	334.2	247	243.5	36	35.5	5	4.9	49	48.3
Windsor	968	290.9	632	190.0	218	65.5	3	0.9	115	34.6
Thunder Bay	355	289.7	254	207.3	54	44.1	1	0.8	46	37.5
Greater Sudbury	444	273.3	248	152.7	131	80.6	0	0.0	65	40.0
Halifax	1,029	267.0	740	192.0	183	47.5	0	0.0	106	27.5
London	1,211	254.1	684	143.5	245	51.4	2	0.4	280	58.7
Kitchener	1,210	243.8	814	164.0	291	58.6	4	0.8	101	20.3
Sherbrooke	349	232.9	268	178.8	45	30.0	0	0.0	36	24.0
Kingston	319	208.7	166	108.6	81	53.0	6	3.9	66	43.2
Regina	345	169.6	204	100.3	86	42.3	3	1.5	52	25.6
St. Catharines-Niagara	650	149.8	372	85.7	190	43.8	8	1.8	80	18.4
St. John's	257	140.7	178	97.5	57	31.2	1	0.5	21	11.5
Saguenay	182	125.6	122	84.2	16	11.0	1	0.7	43	29.7
Canada	**100,675**	**305.3**	**62,510**	**189.6**	**22,819**	**69.2**	**797**	**2.4**	**14,547**	**44.1**

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) refers to a large urban core (at least 100,000 population) combined with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. The CMA of Oshawa is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.
4. Other drugs include all other illicit drugs not otherwise stated, e.g. crystal meth, ecstasy, "date rape" drugs, LSD, barbiturates, chemical precursors, etc.
5. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates are from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
6. Refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau census metropolitan area.
7. Refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau census metropolitan area.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 9
Police-reported drug offences, by type of offence, by census metropolitan area, 2007

Census metropolitan area[1,2,3]	Total drugs		Possession		Trafficking		Production, importation and exportation	
	number	rate[4]	number	rate[4]	number	rate[4]	number	rate[4]
500,000 and over population								
Vancouver	14,407	630.1	10,803	472.5	2,241	98.0	1,363	59.6
Québec	2,090	285.3	1,632	222.8	392	53.5	66	9.0
Edmonton	2,437	222.4	1,582	144.3	823	75.1	32	2.9
Toronto	12,132	220.2	8,170	148.3	3,034	55.1	928	16.8
Ottawa[5]	1,915	215.2	1,403	157.6	412	46.3	100	11.2
Montréal	7,563	202.8	5,055	135.5	1,741	46.7	767	20.6
Hamilton	1,325	187.3	1,006	142.2	264	37.3	55	7.8
Calgary	1,891	165.0	877	76.5	991	86.5	23	2.0
Winnipeg	1,151	157.2	409	55.9	701	95.8	41	5.6
100,000 to less than 500,000 population								
Trois-Rivières	829	564.9	654	445.7	108	73.6	67	45.7
Victoria	1,596	471.1	1,203	355.1	352	103.9	41	12.1
Abbotsford	664	392.7	385	227.7	189	111.8	90	53.2
Gatineau[6]	1,120	382.6	893	305.1	169	57.7	58	19.8
Saskatoon	873	348.8	717	286.5	150	59.9	6	2.4
Saint John	339	334.2	241	237.6	92	90.7	6	5.9
Windsor	968	290.9	427	128.3	236	70.9	305	91.7
Thunder Bay	355	289.7	268	218.7	57	46.5	30	24.5
Greater Sudbury	444	273.3	268	165.0	166	102.2	10	6.2
Halifax	1,029	267.0	787	204.2	215	55.8	27	7.0
London	1,211	254.1	929	194.9	208	43.6	74	15.5
Kitchener	1,210	243.8	1,004	202.3	172	34.7	34	6.8
Sherbrooke	349	232.9	248	165.5	91	60.7	10	6.7
Kingston	319	208.7	200	130.9	107	70.0	12	7.9
Regina	345	169.6	180	88.5	156	76.7	9	4.4
St. Catharines-Niagara	650	149.8	402	92.6	174	40.1	74	17.1
St. John's	257	140.7	160	87.6	87	47.6	10	5.5
Saguenay	182	125.6	112	77.3	58	40.0	12	8.3
Canada	**100,675**	**305.3**	**68,029**	**206.3**	**23,479**	**71.2**	**9,167**	**27.8**

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) refers to a large urban core (at least 100,000 population) combined with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. The CMA of Oshawa is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.
4. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates are from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
5. Refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau census metropolitan area.
6. Refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau census metropolitan area.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 10
Youth (12 to 17 years) accused of police-reported drug offences, by province and territory, 2007

Province and territory	Charged		Cleared by other means[1]		Total		Percent charged
	number	rate[2]	number	rate[2]	number	rate[2]	percent
Newfoundland and Labrador	29	77.6	71	189.9	100	267.4	29.0
Prince Edward Island	14	120.2	12	103.0	26	223.2	53.8
Nova Scotia	130	184.1	220	311.5	350	495.5	37.1
New Brunswick	118	210.1	192	341.8	310	551.9	38.1
Quebec	1,665	286.5	3,253	559.7	4,918	846.1	33.9
Ontario	3,245	317.0	4,606	450.0	7,851	767.0	41.3
Manitoba	289	281.1	154	149.8	443	431.0	65.2
Saskatchewan	312	354.0	316	358.5	628	712.5	49.7
Alberta	754	270.5	669	240.0	1,423	510.6	53.0
British Columbia	556	170.7	1,972	605.3	2,528	776.0	22.0
Yukon	9	340.0	21	793.4	30	1,133.4	30.0
Northwest Territories	12	286.1	72	1,716.7	84	2,002.9	14.3
Nunavut	3	78.6	9	235.8	12	314.5	25.0
Canada	**7,136**	**275.9**	**11,567**	**447.2**	**18,703**	**723.0**	**38.2**

1. Cleared by other means includes police discretion, referral to diversion program, etc.
2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates are from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

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